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CULTURAL RESOURCES

AWARENESS TRAINING

LEE A. BENNETT  
Forest Archeologist

Payette National Forest  
McCall, Idaho  
April 1981

LIBRARY COPY  
ROCKY MT. FOREST & RANGE  
EXPERIMENT STATION

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**NOTE:** This handout is designed to accompany an oral presentation on Cultural Resources--what they are, why they must be managed, and how they are identified--on the Payette National Forest. Supplementary slide-tape programs from R-6 and R-9 are shown as are slides of cultural resources on the Forest. Discussion and questions are welcome.

**TABLE II. SYNOPSIS OF NATIONAL REGISTER  
CRITERIA OF SIGNIFICANCE**

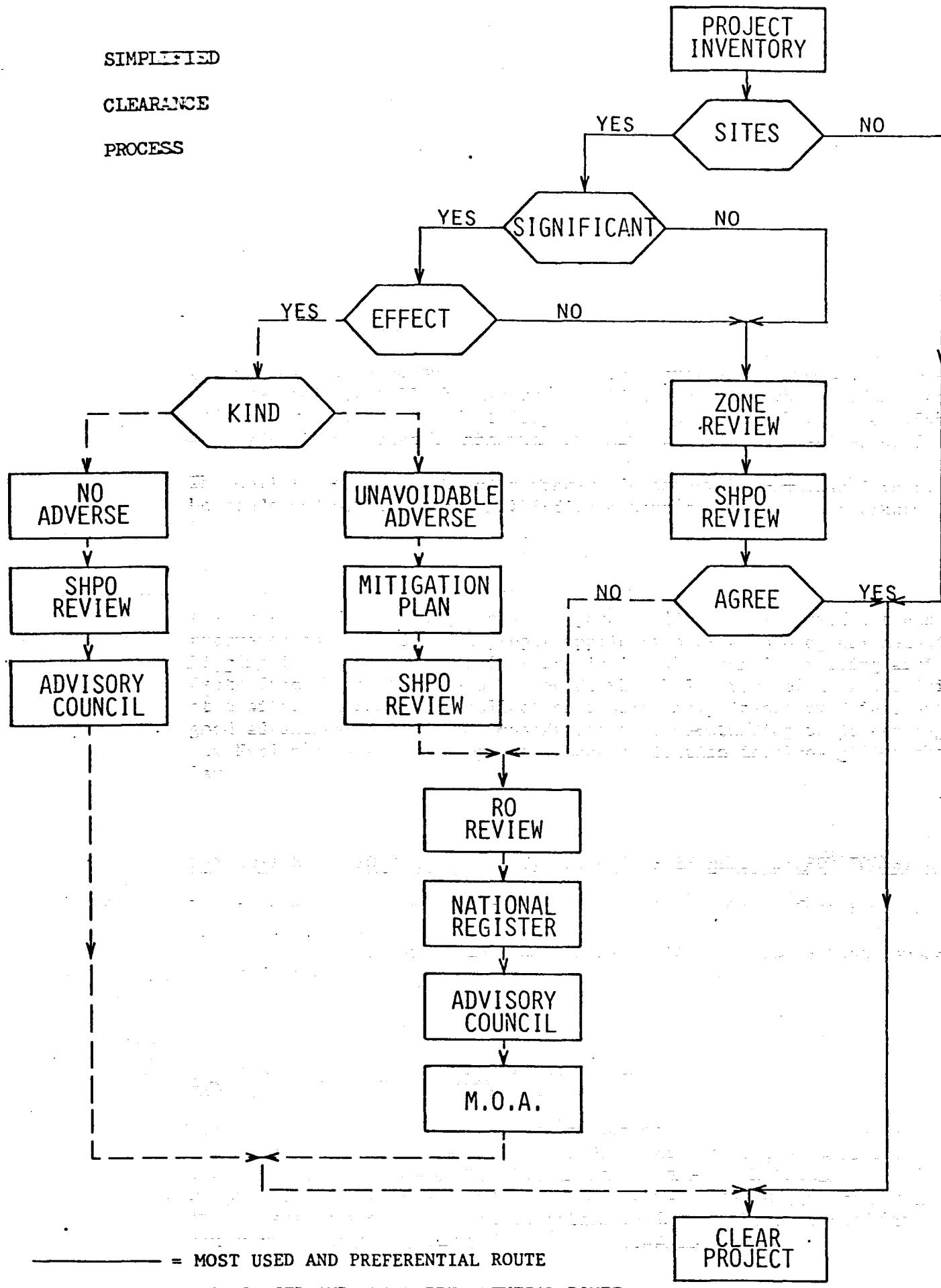
Cultural resources must display:

1. Integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and
2. Association with important events, or
3. Association with important persons, or
4. Represent a distinctive character, or
5. Represent the work of a master, or
6. Possess high artistic values, or
7. Yield or have the potential to yield information import in prehistory or history, and
8. Be older than 50 years with certain exceptions.

SIMPLIFIED

CLEARANCE

PROCESS



— = MOST USED AND PREFERENTIAL ROUTE

— = LEAST USED AND LEAST PREFERENTIAL ROUTE

## WHAT CAN BE LEARNED FROM A SITE AND ITS ARTIFACTS?

A site is the physical location of some type of human activity, and artifacts are objects made or modified for human use. Together they can provide clues for understanding our Nation's past.

When professionally investigated a site may reveal much. Not only can its size be determined but the position of artifacts relative to one another can indicate what kinds of activity took place at which areas in the site. By carefully examining the site the archeologist can determine sleeping areas, where food was prepared and cooked, storage areas, sanitation facilities, and traffic patterns among other things.

In addition to the distribution of artifacts in the site, each artifact can contribute other interesting information. By studying the edges of cutting tools it is sometimes possible to learn whether plant or animal tissue was cut. The small pieces of stone created in the manufacture of a stone tool can tell the expert something about how the artifact was made and what it was. If it is possible to determine how the artifact was made, it may then be possible to learn when it was manufactured.

The soil layers in a site also contain important information. There may be seeds and pollen which will indicate both environment and plant foods. Small bones from rodents can provide data on when the site was occupied. Even the soil itself can reveal climatic conditions and length of occupancy.

All of these fascinating facts are potentially in every site but can be recovered only through the proper application of archeological methods. Digging in the "best" locations or picking the most interesting artifacts from the surface cannot provide the whole story of human activity at a site. Instead such collection results only in pretty things and good adventure; it does not contribute to understanding or preserving our Nation's past. In many cases such collection is also against the law.

## MAY BOTTLES, ARROWHEADS, GRAVES, AND CABINS BE REMOVED FROM FOREST LANDS?

There is some argument about the removal of arrowheads from Federal lands, but the law is clear about the other objects. Their removal is prohibited and to reposition them is also illegal because that constitutes damage to a site.

## IF SOMEONE ASKS WHERE GOOD PLACES TO DIG BOTTLES OR COLLECT ARROWHEADS ARE, WHAT REPLY SHOULD BE GIVEN?

Many people look at bottle and arrowhead collecting as interesting and harmless hobbies, and see the National Forests as a good source for these items. To them collecting is a form of recreation and items found on public lands belong to whoever finds them. However, there are laws which make many such activities illegal. Inform the person of the law and advise him or her that digging is prohibited.

## WHAT SHOULD BE DONE IF VANDALS ARE SEEN LOOTING A SITE?

If the site is on Forest Service land, inform them that they are breaking the law. Many people are not aware of the laws governing our cultural heritage. Report all the information about the incident to the District Law Enforcement Coordinator.

## WHICH LAWS RESTRICT RELIC COLLECTING? CAN CITATIONS BE ISSUED FOR COLLECTION?

Most cultural resources are covered by the Antiquities Act of 1906 and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979. Citations can be issued under 36CFR261.96.

## WHAT INPUT IS NEEDED FROM CULTURAL RESOURCES WHEN AN EA IS WRITTEN?

To determine if cultural resources require specific mention in the EA, three questions must be addressed.

1. What is the nature of the proposed project and where will it be?
2. What is the probability for cultural resources at the project location?
3. Are any cultural resources known at or near the project location?

If the proposed project has the potential to disturb the ground surface or if it may impact known cultural resources, further consideration is needed. Where a project is scheduled in a high probability area or when cultural values are known in the area then cultural resource work may be necessary.

By checking with the Forest Archeologist when preparing an EA and having project plans ready, a quick solution to the cultural resources concern may be obtained. While not every proposal will be inventoried at least project personnel can be alert for possible sites.

## WHAT KINDS OF CULTURAL RESOURCES SHOULD THE FOREST PROTECT?

The Forest is directed to provide protection for significant cultural values as our first cultural resource priority in project planning. If protection is infeasible then other action may be appropriate. By "significant" is meant those cultural values which are eligible for, have been nominated to, or have been accepted to the National Register of Historic Places. The Forest Service has also been directed to provide leadership in the general management of cultural resources which often means we will offer protection to sites which are not eligible

for the National Register.

Technically each cultural resource encountered on the Payette must be evaluated against National Register criteria. This is done whenever possible, but there are many times when the archeologist lacks sufficient information to make the determination. This happens, for example, when the type of site has not been professionally examined to learn what information it may contain, when there are no references in the literature to the role played by a particular site, or when the site has not been properly recorded. At the present time the Forest has more of these unevaluated sites than any other category but as more is learned about our cultural resources the eligibility of sites can be better determined. In the interim our line officers provide protection to unevaluated sites whenever possible and so aid in preserving our Payette cultural resources.

#### HOW CAN A SITE BE RECOGNIZED?

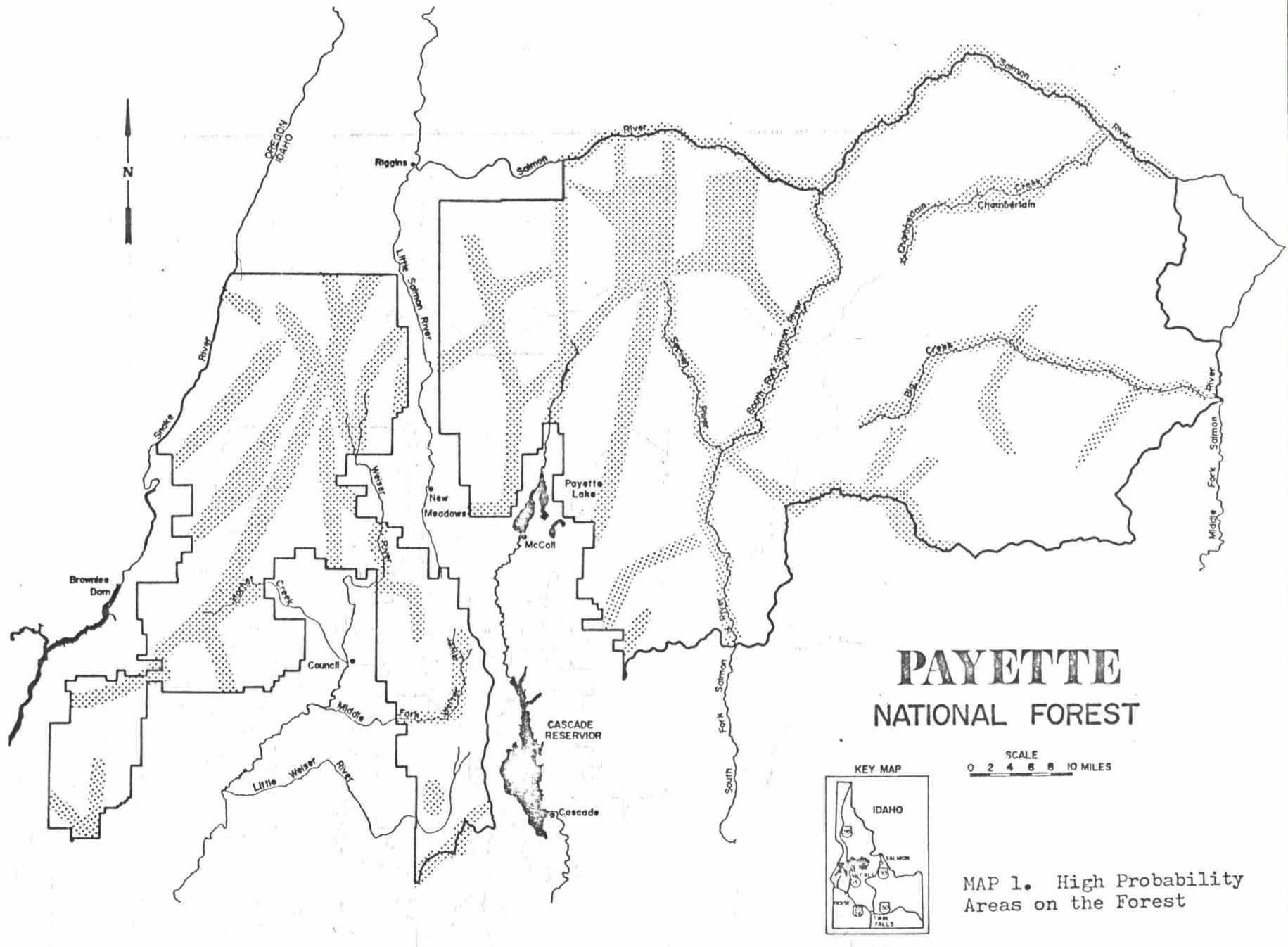
Generally a site can be recognized by a structure and/or a scattering of artifacts on the ground surface. Historic sites are among the most easily identified since they often have the remains of structures: cabins, cellars, barns, waterlines, fireplaces, or mines. In addition historic sites frequently have garbage dumps, called middens. Old trails and roads may also be historic sites. Forest Service stations, lookouts, shelters, trails, and campgrounds are all potential historic sites.

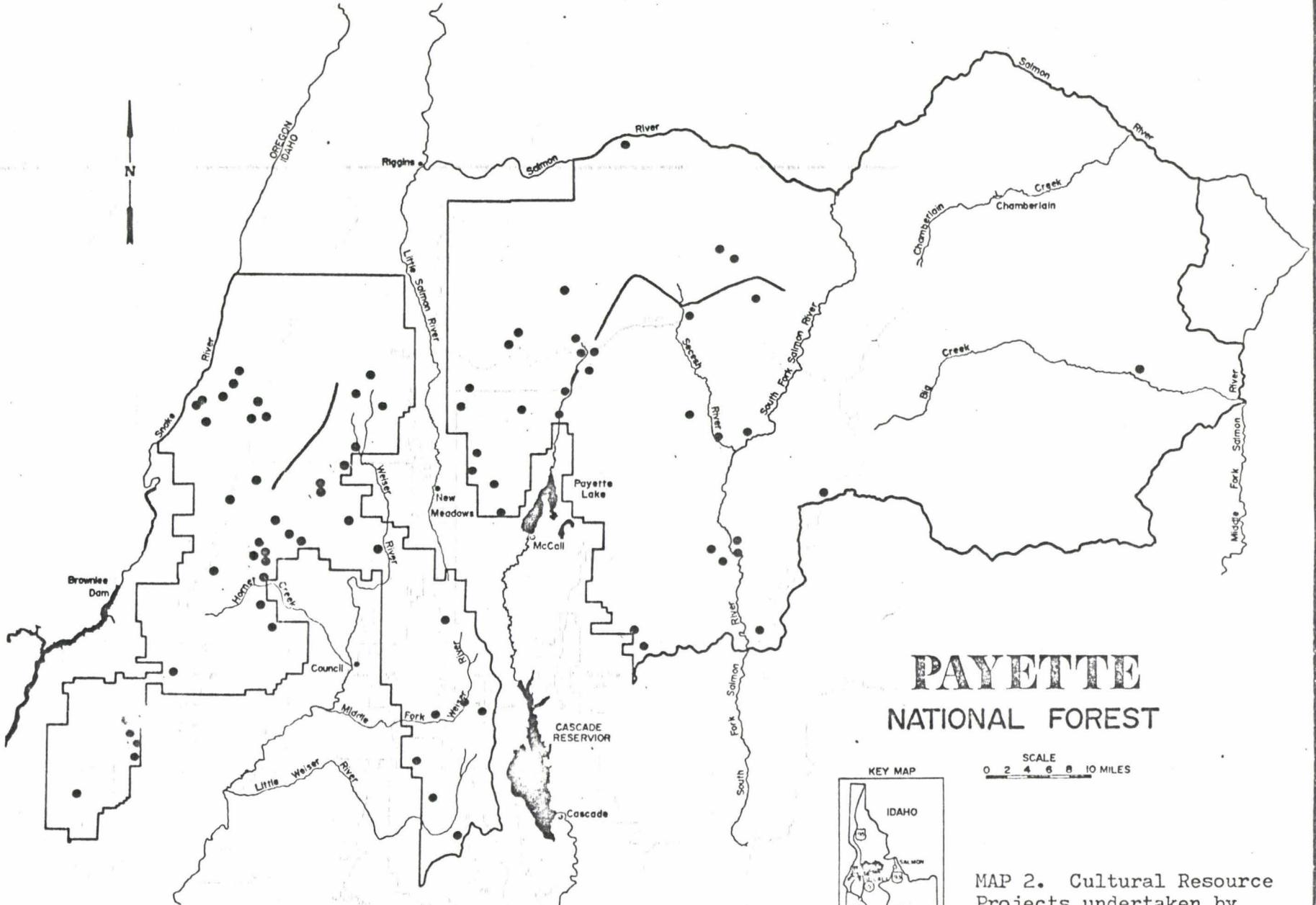
Prehistoric sites, that is sites occupied by Indians, are more difficult to recognize. They usually lack structures and thus don't stand out very well. The most common evidence for an Indian site is stone tools and the waste flakes from their manufacture. Arrowheads and scrapers are good indications as are the presence of obsidian, chert (flint), or basalt flakes.

When a possible site is encountered while working on a project notify the Forest Archeologist and protect the area from project activity until an evaluation is made.

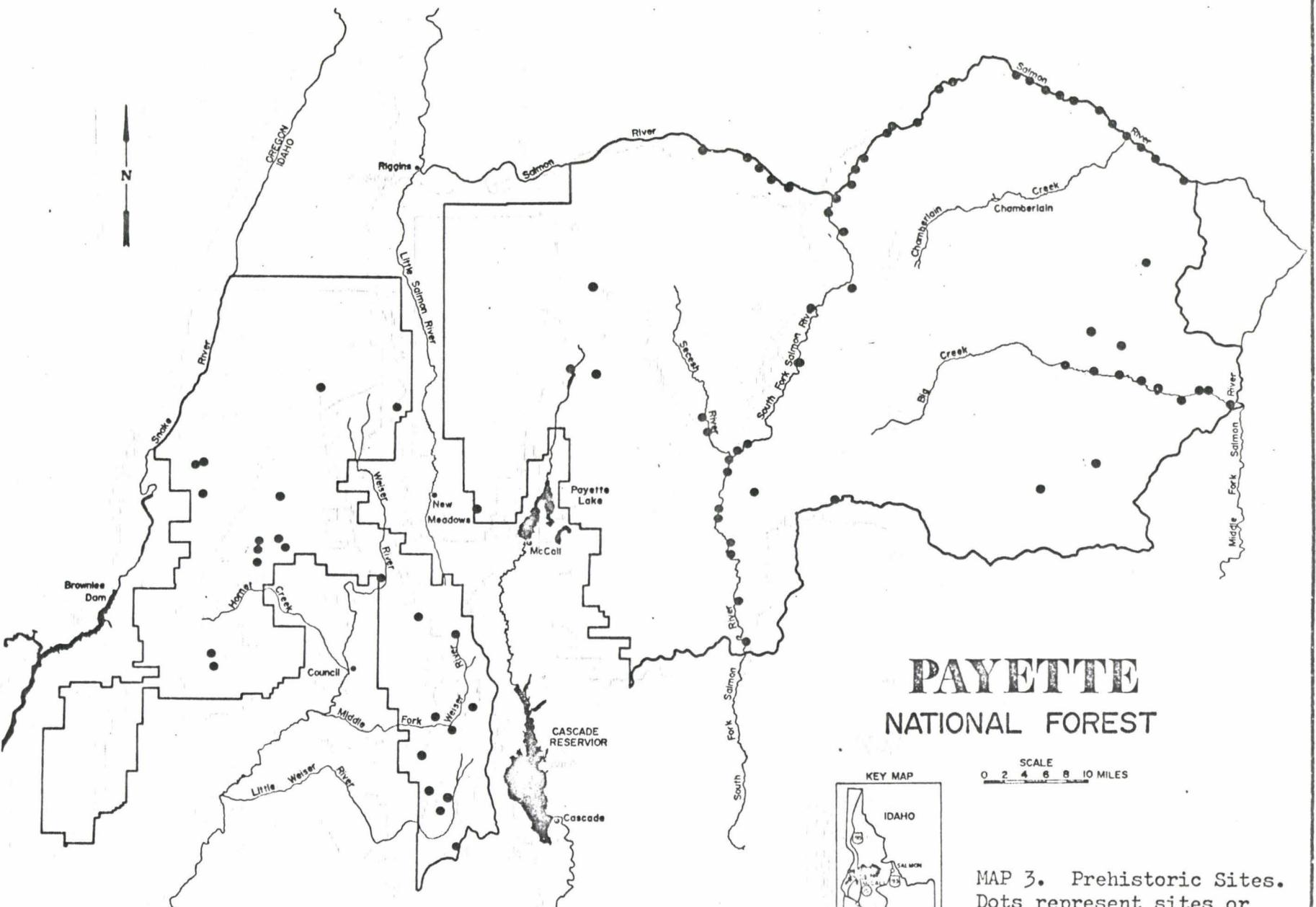
#### WHAT CULTURAL RESOURCE PROJECTS HAS THE FOREST DONE?

The Payette National Forest began its cultural resource work in the early 1970's and hired their first permanent archeologist in 1975. A change in program design occurred in 1977 to better comply with regulations and since that date the Forest has conducted 80 inventories and provided other assistance to management. At the present time 153 sites have been recorded by Forest personnel and another 186 have been recorded by contractors.





MAP 2. Cultural Resource Projects undertaken by Forest personnel 1977-80

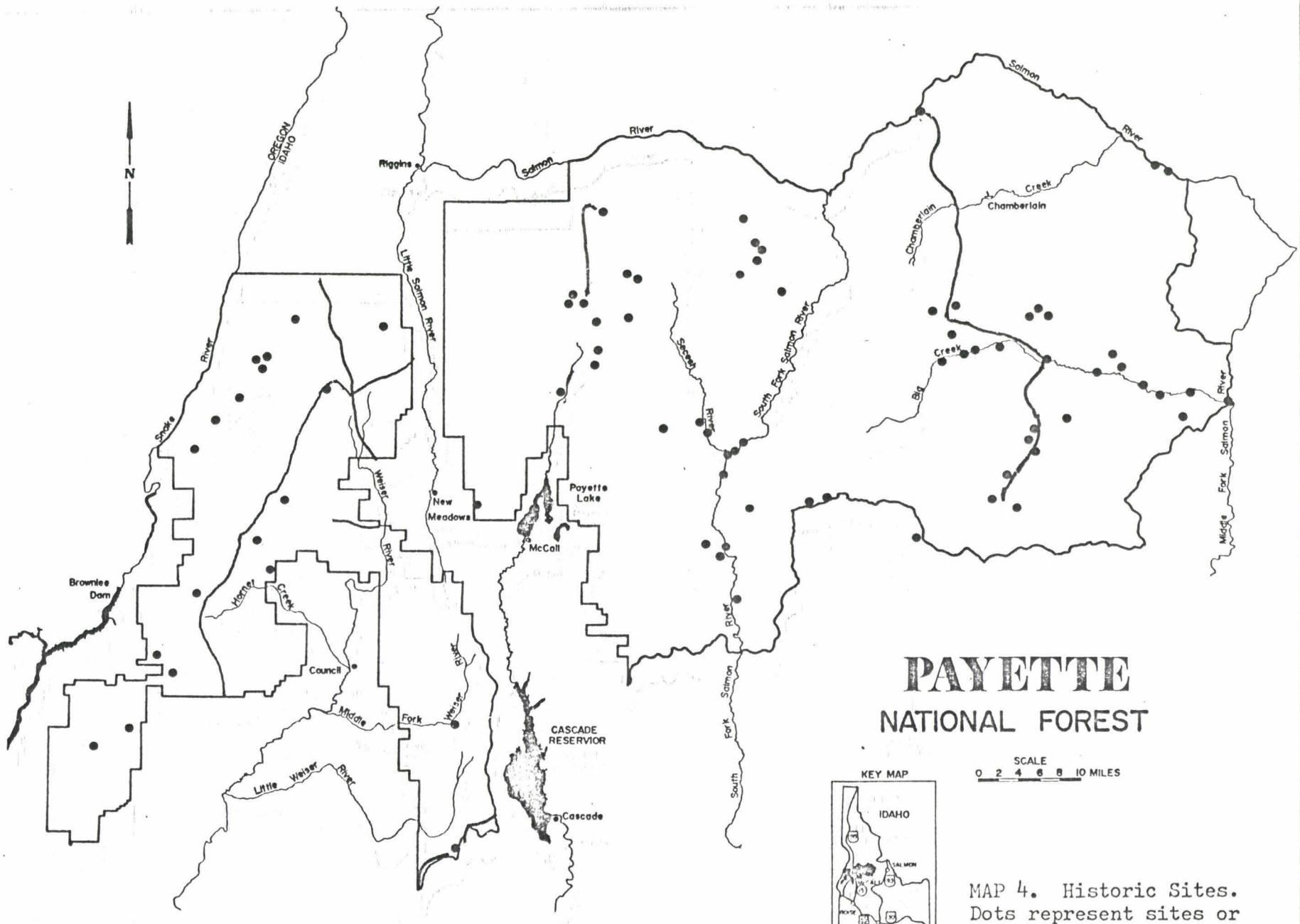


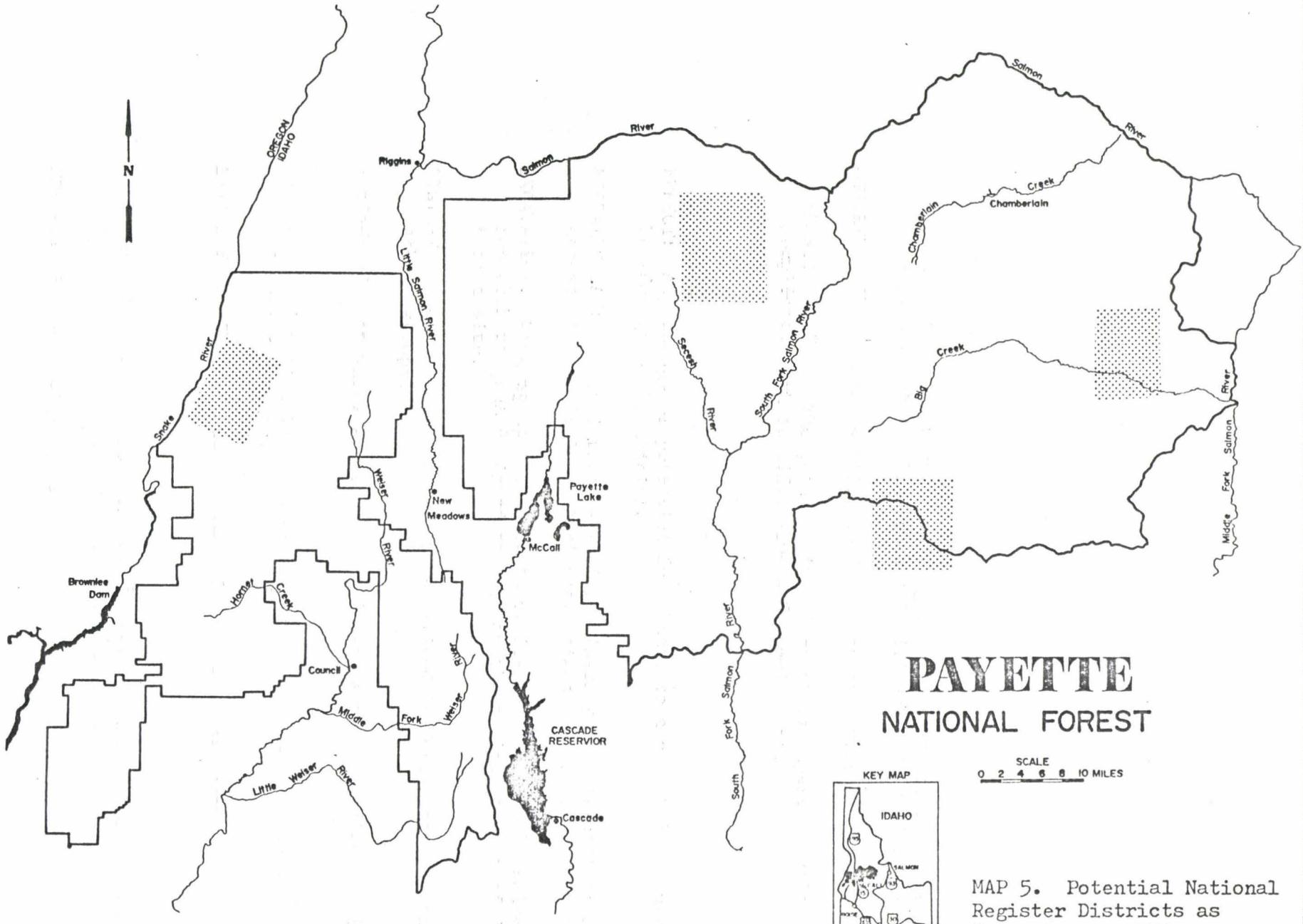
## PAYETTE NATIONAL FOREST

SCALE  
0 2 4 6 8 10 MILES



MAP 3. Prehistoric Sites.  
Dots represent sites or  
clusters of sites.





MAP 5. Potential National Register Districts as Suggested by SHPO

## GLOSSARY

**ADVERSE EFFECT:** An undesirable change in a significant cultural resource caused by a project that alters the criteria by which the resource is determined to be significant.

**ADVISORY COUNCIL:** Advisory Council of Historic Preservation; has review authority over projects having effects on significant cultural resources.

**ARCHEOLOGY:** The scientific study of human activity through its physical evidence.

**ARTIFACT:** Any object used, modified, or made for human use.

**BENEFICIAL EFFECT:** A change in a significant cultural resource caused by a project that enhances the significant values of the resource.

**CONTEXT:** The general setting for an event or series of events.

**CLEARANCE PROCESS:** The path a cultural resource report travels to ensure compliance with specific laws and regulations.

**CULTURAL RESOURCE:** An object, place, event, or combination thereof which is the product of human activity.

**EFFECT:** Any change or potential for change to a cultural resource; may be adverse or beneficial.

**EUROAMERICAN:** General term referring primarily to Americans of European ancestry; also includes Africans, Asians, and other non-Indians.

**EXCAVATION:** Digging up the past; specifically a full-scale salvage or research project designed to recover the maximum amount of data from a site.

**HISTORY:** The time since non-Indians arrived in North America; includes all ethnic groups.

**INDIAN:** Person whose ancestry is at least partially Native American; people of North America prior to the arrival of Euroamericans.

**INVENTORY:** A systematic, planned survey of an area to locate and identify cultural resources.

**MITIGATION:** The lessening of an effect on a significant cultural resource; involves agreement between Forest, SHPO, RO, and Advisory Council.

**OVERVIEW:** A document about the prehistory and history of a given area; more general than specific and used to develop context.

**POT HUNTER:** See relic collector.

**PREHISTORY:** Before North America was inhabited by non-Indians.

**RELIC COLLECTOR:** A person who carelessly, illegally, or destructively damages a cultural resource through surface collection, rearrangement and/or digging.

**REVIEW PROCESS:** See clearance process.

**SHPO:** State Historic Preservation Officer; at the present time Idaho's is Dr. Merle Wells.

**SIGNIFICANCE:** The presence of specific features or attributes as described by the National Register of Historic Places.

**SITE:** The location of some human activity; usually limited to an area in which the nature of the activity can be learned.

**SITE FORM:** Specific form used to record required data about a site; soon to be computerized at Fort Collins.

**STRATIGRAPHY:** The study of soil layers to determine climate, methods of soil building, and dating of soil deposition.

**TESTING:** Limited excavation at a site to learn depth, extent, contents, and significance.

**TRANSECT:** The path walked by a surveyor during an inventory.